

Message Text

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67

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /056 W

----- 095523

R 282102Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3836

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SANTO DOMINGO 2403

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, DR

SUBJECT: DEATH OF PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO PROHIBIT
REELECTION

REF: (A) SD-3421 DATED AUGUST 19, 1974, (B) SD A-137 DATED DEC
14, 1974

1. PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PRESENTED TO CONGRESS
ON AUGUST 16, 1974 BY BALAGUER WHICH WOULD HAVE PROHIBITED
PRESIDENTIAL REELECTION BECAME INOPERATIVE WHEN CONGRESS HELD
FINAL SESSION ON MAY 27 WITHOUT CONSIDERING PROPOSED AMENDMENT.
UNDER DOMINICAN LAW, PROPOSAL NOW VOID AND MUST BE RE-INTRODUCED
IN NEXT SESSION BY EXECUTIVE BRANCH OR BY A LEGISLATOR IF IT
IS TO BE RECONSIDERED.

2. CONGRESS' FAILURE TO ACT ON AMENDMENT HAS BROUGHT LIMITED
PUBLIC REACTION. MEDIA PUBLISHED MEASURED STATEMENTS
REGRETTING DEATH OF MEASURE AND OPPOSITION PARTY SPOKESMAN
BEMOANED CONGRESS' INACTIVITY, BUT THERE HAVE BEEN NO FORCE-
FUL ATTACKS ON CONGRESS OR PRESIDENT.

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH OPPOSITION LEADERS STILL DEMAND
EVENTUAL PASSAGE OF CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PROHIBITING
PRESIDENTIAL REELECTION, MOST RECOGNIZE THAT THIS MAY NOT
BE MOST OPPORTUNE MOMENT. MANY POLITICIANS REALIZE THAT
PASSAGE OF AMENDMENT NOW COULD SET OFF POWER STRUGGLE AMONG
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BALAGUERISTAS, WHICH WOULD UNDERMINE THE PRESIDENT AND

COULD LEAD TO EXTRA-LEGAL MEASURES DAMAGING THEIR CHANCES
TO WIN 1978 ELECTIONS. AS THESE ELECTIONS APPROACH, HOWEVER,
OPPOSITION DEMANDS FOR ANTI-REELECTION AMENDMENT WILL ALMOST
CERTAINLY BE STEPPED UP.
HURWITCH

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
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05 JUL 2006

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TAGS: PINT, DR
To: SECSTATE WASHDC
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